



Gold King Mine Spill 08/15/2015 – 1900 CDT Bullets

New Mexico announced its determination that drinking water systems and recreational activity along the Animas and San Juan rivers can resume based on water quality sampling results collected by both New Mexico Environment Department and the EPA. New Mexico plans to open the River at 8:00 pm MT tonight.

At the August 14, 2015, community meeting, Secretary Flynn announced that the State would begin ditch flushing that night. Ditch operators began flushing the ditches at 7:00 pm MDT on August 14, 2015.

On August 14, 2015, the toll-free call-in number received thirty-nine inquiries, of those, twelve dealt directly with Region 6. Regions 6, 8 and 9 will coordinate responses to these calls.

Private Drinking Water Well Sampling

- EPA collected twenty-five private drinking water well samples.
- EPA collected five samples from the Southside and Flora Vista public water supply wells.

Drinking Water Technical Support/Pretreatment/Connections

- Morningstar and Farmington are completing the connection between their water systems. NMED supports EPA's decision to put this pumping system into place. The pump and tanks, provide by EPA, have been set in place. The water system operators will complete the connections and will operate the system once functional.
- On August 15, 2015, EPA began transporting and offloading raw water into Morningstar's pretreatment settling ponds. Seven trucks were dedicated to delivering raw water to Morningstar. This will provide minimal relief. It is not expected to significantly reduce the need for additional water supply. Morningstar was very appreciative of EPA's quick response and assistance.

Surface Water and Sediment Sampling

- EPA collected nine surface water and sediment samples today. Six of these samples will be collected from the Animas River and three will be collected after the confluence of the Animas and San Juan Rivers.

- The August 7-9, 2015, surface water sampling data is now available on the Gold King Mine website: <http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine/gold-king-mine-data-august-15-2015>.

Agriculture and Livestock Water

- EPA delivered water to three livestock locations today. Several locations rescinded their requests for water after New Mexico lifted the advisory restricting the use of private water wells.
- EPA continues to conduct deliveries for irrigation water. However it is anticipated that as the irrigation ditch water levels stabilize, water hauling deliveries will decrease.

EPA and contractor staffing for today is as follows:

| Group | Number |
|--|---------------|
| Region 6 EPA @ REOC | 13 |
| Region 6 Contractors @ REOC | 4 |
| | |
| Region 6 Staff in JIC – Durango, CO | 1 |
| Region 6 Staff in Area Command – Durango, CO | 1 |
| Region 6 RIC – Farmington, NM | 1 |
| Region 6 Logistics – Farmington, NM | 1 |
| Region 6 CIC – Farmington, NM | 2 |
| Region 6 Water Liaison – Santa Fe, NM | 1 |
| Region 6 EPA OSC | 5 |
| Region 6/7 Water Technicians | 10 |
| Region 6 Contractors in Field | 32 |